

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2021

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 10881

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON CH

SUBJECT: CHEKIANG DRAWS UP NEW PLAN FOR BALANCE OF THE YEAR

1. A CHEKIANG PROVINCIAL WORK PLAN DISCUSSION MEETING HAS "DRAWN UP" AN ECONOMIC WORK PLAN FOR THE NEXT FOUR MONTHS AND HAS ALSO CARRIED OUT "INITIAL STUDY" OF THE PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC PLAN FOR THE NEXT YEAR. EMPHASIZING THE CURRENT MEDIA THEME THAT ONLY FOUR MONTHS ARE LEFT TO MEET 1976 TARGETS, THE MEETING VOWED TO INCREASE PRODUCTION "MORE ENERGETICALLY" AND "PRACTICE STRICT ECONOMY." IN REFERRING TO THIS GOAL AS "SPECIFIC ACTION" IN SUPPORT OF THE EARTHQUAKE RELIEF EFFORT AND THE ANTI-TENG CRITICISM CAMPAIGN, THE MEETING DEVELOPS THE THEME OF CAPITALIZING ON THE QUAKE TO BOOST PRODUCTION THAT WAS BEGINNING TO EMERGE CLEARLY IN THE WEEKS BEFORE MAO'S DEATH (HK 10308). THE MEETING ALSO TOOK UNUSUAL PUBLIC NOTE OF CHEKIANG'S DEVISIVE FACTIONAL PROBLEMS, CALLING FOR A HALT TO "ENDLESS SQUABBLING OVER PAST GRUDGES," WHICH IT WAS CLAIMED HAD BEEN INSTIGATED BY "CAPITALIST ROADERS."

2. COMMENT: THE CHEKIANG MEETING CLEARLY REFLECTS CENTRAL GUIDANCE THAT IT IS TIME TO REFOCUS ATTENTION AND REDIRECT EFFORTS TOWARD MEETING
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ECONOMIC TARGETS. IT IS THE FIRST SIGN OF SUBSTANTIVE PROVIN-

CIAL REACTION TO NEW GUIDELINES. THE MEETING'S
REFERENCE TO "DRAWING UP" A WORK PLAN FOR THE REMAINDER
OF THE YEAR--CONNOTING AN EMERGENCY, AD HOC
ARRANGEMENT--HAS AN AIR OF URGENCY ABOUT IT, AS IF EXTRA,
UNUSUAL EFFORT WILL HAVE TO BE MADE TO FULFILL TARGETS.
FINALLY, THE FRANK MENTION OF "ENDLESS SQUABBLING" PROVIDES
SOME PERCEPTION OF THE FRUSTRATION ENGENDERED BY CHEKIANG'S
POLITICAL FACTIONALISM, FURTHER UNDERSCORED BY THE MEETING'S
SEEMINGLY FUTILE APPEAL TO "UNITE TOGETHER" TO CRITICIZE
TENG HSIAO-PING.

3. TO THE EXTENT THAT MAO'S DEATH MAY ENCOURAGE A
SENSE OF UNIT (AS SUPERFICIAL AS IT MAY BE IN REALITY)
IN THE FACE OF COMMONLY-SHARED ADVERSITIES, IT WILL
PROBABLY SERVE TO STRENGTHEN THE LEADERSHIP'S
INCREASINGLY CLEAR EFFORT TO REFOCUS ATTENTION ON LESS
DEVISIVE PRODUCTION GOALS.
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